

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at 7:04pm, at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66 and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Board members present were: Supervisor Scee, Councilman Stephen Lee, Councilman Todd Farrington, Councilman Richard Young, and Councilman Carson Lennox.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Young to approve the minutes of the 1/15/14 Board meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee received correspondence: A letter from DEC notifying the Town that it was denied CFA funding. Also the registration forms arrived for the Tug Hill Local Government Training at JCC taking place in March. Supervisor Scee reminded Town officials who would like to attend should contact the Town Clerk or the Clerk to the Supervisor as soon as possible.

The Supervisor's Report was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor for January: Total receipts \$986,260.08, Total disbursements \$191,357.77, Total in checking account \$1,038,649.94, and Total investments \$400,000.

A motion was made to accept the Supervisor's Report by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Abstract #2, vouchers #40-125 were presented: General Fund A \$104,793.05, General Fund B \$1,215.17, Highway Fund A \$74,970.53, Highway Fund B \$5,954.88, Water District 2 \$83,526.22, Water District 5 \$3,760.85, Water District 1 \$6,492.81, Water District 4 \$30.85, Water District 3 \$370.73, Abstract Total \$281,115.09.

After discussion on vouchers #69 and #103, a motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay bills in abstract #2, vouchers #40-125. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that a Water Committee meeting is scheduled for February 19th at 7 pm.

Supervisor Scee asked the Water Operator to explain what problems are taking place at the water tower in sub zero weather and Mr. Kenney explained that with many very cold days this winter the card machine at the tower freezes and residents can not get water.

It was the decision of the Town Board, not to build any shelter around the card machine about a year ago because the cost would be charged to Water District 2. Mr. Kenney said that he gives residents the option of getting water at the village tower when calls come in with complaints. A discussion was held about raising the price of water to deflect the cost of adding a shelter with heat for winter water users. C'man Lee will take these questions to the Water Committee for suggestions.

Mr. Kenney also proposed to the Board an amendment to the Water Law to move the quarterly billing dates back one month, in order to give customers more time after the fall due date to pay before the re-levy process of unpaid water to the Town and County tax bills.

A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Lee to set a public hearing for March 12, 2014 at 7 pm to hear public comments on a proposed amendment to the Water Law which would move the dates of quarterly water billing to the 15th of February, May, August, and November. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Young reported that he attended two meetings for the Economic Development Committee and also a Hay Memorial Library meeting.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended the Fire Board of Directors meeting and he expressed the concern of the Town Board that there is poor attendance at the regular fire department meetings, where at times a meeting can not be held and the Fire Board is working on that. He also met with a justice and court clerk who have concerns about the plowing and salting of the court building and he spoke with the Highway Superintendent about that issue.

C'man Farrington made a motion and C'man Lee 2nd to approve the purchase of an attachment for the Grandal to aid in the clean up of trees and limbs this spring, costing \$5,000, (\$1,000 a month). All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Farrington made a motion and C'man Lee 2nd to approve the purchase of a set of tires for the loader for between \$5200 and \$5300. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lennox reported that he attended a seminar on Economic Development, and a Recreation Commission meeting.

A report of the balance in the Bed Tax fund was given by the Clerk to the Supervisor.

A work report was given by the Highway Superintendent for January. He explained that it is very hard to keep the roads clear when we get as much snow as we have had this year but the men have been doing the best job they can. Supervisor Scee commended the Highway Department on a job well done in terrible weather conditions. C'man Young asked the Highway Superintendent about fire hydrants and Mr. Alcombrack reported that today the department began cleaning them out.

A discussion was held on the Verizon GPS system that is proposed for the Highway Department and C'man Lee made a motion to table this discussion until next month and C'man Farrington 2nd the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Christine Eggleston gave a report on proposals for use of the Union Hotel this summer. Dave Altieri gave a report on the planned reenactment of the cable carry for the 200th anniversary of that event.

Supervisor Scee made a motion and C'man Lee 2nd for an amendment to Annual Resolution #14-01 for the salary of the Planning, Zoning Secretary, which should be \$30 per meeting as it was last year. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A discussion was held on the structure of members on the Bed Tax Committee. Supervisor Scee and the committee chairperson have heard concerns that members of this committee are also affiliated with not for profit organizations that receive the funds to promote tourism. Vincent Battista was present and assured the Town Board that committee members affiliated with organizations that apply for funds do not vote on their own applications.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Lennox for Resolution #14-03 to amend the original 1988 Bed Tax Committee Resolution to include two more at large members which will be appointed by the Town Board. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to hold Grievance Day on the fourth Wednesday in May. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lennox and 2nd by C'man Lee to make two appointments to the Recreation Commission. Jeff Kenney will be appointed a member for baseball and basketball, and Derek Derouin will be appointed a member at large for Village and Town. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee opened the floor for comments and Peter Daly was present to encourage the Town to conduct a full audit of the Town finances as was discussed at the last meeting.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Young to go into executive session at 8:12pm to discuss a personnel issue and litigation. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:45pm and a motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Young to move ahead with an appeal to the decision of a law suite against the Town by the law firm Schwerzmann and Wise. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk